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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.: 10/826,696

Confirmation No.: 9603

In re Application of:

Yoshihiko KURASHIMA et al.

Group Art Unit: 3749

Filed: April 19, 2004

Examiner: Gregory A. Wilson

For: FIRING FURNACE AND FIRING METHOD

STATUS INQUIRY LETTER

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

It would be appreciated if you would indicate the status of the above-identified application below, including an indication as to when the next communication can be expected, and return this sheet to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP

July 12, 2005
Date

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